Guidelines for the written portion of the dissertation

The three paper format of the dissertation has the advantage of ensuring that the substantial work done by both the trainee and the primary advisor ends up as part of the literature. For this option, the format below is suggested. However, it should be noted that this is at the discretion of the primary advisor.

Introduction and Background:

This section should be sufficient to identify the "hole" in the literature that the dissertation is meant to fill. While this is generally 10-20 pages in length, it should be noted that this is a processed version of the literature review and not a complete review in and of itself. The trainee will need to do a substantial literature review in order to understand how the research fits in with the literature. The only portion of this that is required to be in the written version of the dissertation is what is needed to set the stage. The idea is not only to avoid a huge document that the committee has to plow through and edit (very time consuming for candidate and committee member), but also to encourage the candidate to distill a large body of literature into a concise rationale for the proposed research. The dissertation as a whole should have a theme to which all three papers contribute.

Three Projects:

Each project should be presented with a short paragraph introducing how the project relates to the dissertation.

General Discussion

Summary of Findings

The three projects should be tied together and their place in the literature discussed. Because the three projects each contain a discussion section, this section may be on the shorter side. The purpose of this discussion is to deal with the three papers together rather than individually.

Significance

How is the work important in the context of Health Services/Health Outcomes?

Strengths and Weaknesses

Future Research: What are logical "next questions" raised by the research?

Conclusion: What is the final conclusion from the completed dissertation work?

Authorship

Committee members are often included on the paper produced by the dissertation work, but this is not a requirement. The primary advisor and trainee should make this decision and it should be based on the degree to which a given committee member influenced or contributed to each paper.

It is recommended that the primary advisor and trainee decide that fate of papers that are unpublished as of the time of graduation. Time limits should be set so that papers are not held up if the graduate does not submit papers following graduation. For example, the advisor and trainee may decide that if the work is not submitted for publication within 6 months of graduation, the materials will be turned over to the advisor so that the advisor can move forward with publication.

Traditional Monograph Format ⟹ **Three-Manuscript Format**

Traditional Monograph Format	Three-Manuscript Format
Front Matter • Title Page • Committee Members listing should appear on the title page. • Keywords listing should appear on the title page • Notice of Copyright, if applicable, should appear on the title page (copyright is optional, but recommended). • Abstract • Dedication (optional) • Acknowledgements • Table of Contents • List of Tables • List of Figures • List of Symbols, Abbreviations, or Nomenclature • List of Multimedia Objects or Files	**Front Matter** • Title Page • Committee Members listing should appear on the title page. • Keywords listing should appear on the title page • Notice of Copyright, if applicable, should appear on the title page (copyright is optional, but recommended). • Abstract • Dedication (optional) • Acknowledgements • Table of Contents • List of Tables • List of Figures • List of Symbols, Abbreviations, or Nomenclature • List of Multimedia Objects or Files

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     ○ Methods
     ○ Results and Discussion
 • Summary and Conclusion
 • Recommendations
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	 • Introduction and Background
	 • Three Manuscripts
	     ○ Introduction
	     ○ Methods
	     ○ Results
	     ○ Conclusion/Discussion
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	 • Summary and Conclusion
	 • Recommendations

Back Matter • Bibliography • Appendix • Curriculum Vitae	**Back Matter** • Bibliography • Appendix • Curriculum Vitae